National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy

481. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Task Force to prepare a National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy in consultation with the State Governments and other stakeholders;

(b) if so, whether the said task force has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures that have been suggested by the said Task Force to provide housing units to poor and middle class families at affordable cost; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir. A task force was constituted under the chairmanship of the then Secretary of Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Allevation on 27.1.2005 with representatives from Planning Commissioner Ministry of Finance and other Ministries/Departments/State Governments and Financial and other Institutions dealing with Housing Sector.

(b) and (c) The task force had submitted a formal draft policy to this Ministry based on various inputs in the matter of Legal, Regulatory, Financial and Technological issues.

(d) and (e) Recommendations of the task force as well as inputs received from various State Governments and Central Ministries, non-Government organizations and other stakeholders have been utilized to formulate a draft National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy, 2007 which among other issues also envisages measures for augmenting housing stock for Economically Weaker Sections and Low Income Groups.

Women deserted by NRI spouses

482. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 15,000 young women have been abandoned and left to fend for themselves by their non-resident Indian (NRI) spouses;

(b) whether it is a fact that neither the police nor the civil administration is showing any willingness to intervene; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) As on 31st October, 2007, 200 complaints from Indian women abandoned by their NRI/PIO spouses have been brought to the notice of Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.

(b) and (c) Redressal of marital disputes are done in accordance with laws and regulations of the country concerned.

With a view to assist such women the Ministry has launched a scheme to provide legal and financial assistance to women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses through Indian Missions abroad. The Ministry has also launched a guidance booklet, information pamphlets in English, Hindi and regional languages to educate and sensitize prospective brides and their families regarding marital alliance with overseas Indians and through electronic media.